

**ADJOURNED COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
December 8, 2008
7:00 P.M.**

MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING

PRESENT: **COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR.
COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH
MAYOR GRAHAM**

ABSENT: **COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH**

ALSO PRESENT: **CITY MANAGER MARY M. CORRIVEAU**

Mayor Graham opened the adjourned meeting with a moment of silence in memory of H. Robert Nortz who passed away this past week.

Mayor Graham also thanked Mrs. Corriveau and City staff for organizing the event at Public Square last week.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE THE RESOLUTION “APPROVING THE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WATERTOWN AND ESI EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE GROUP” (Introduced on December 1, 2008; tabled; appears in its entirety on page 241 of the 2008 Minutes Book).

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUTLER AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

Council Member Clough remarked that since Council would be looking at items to be deleted from the budget this evening, he wouldn't feel comfortable voting on this resolution at this time.

Mr. White, Assistant to the City Manager, explained that this contract has been extended to the end of December.

Mrs. Corriveau advised Council that a vote on this could be held off until next week.

Council Member Butler asked if any other organization in Jefferson County used ESI.

Mr. White said to his knowledge, no one did.

Council Member Butler asked if the City has used the free orientations in the past.

Mr. White said that he didn't think the City had, as they were not advertised very much.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that they do provide trainings that fall under the NYS DOT mandates.

Council Member Butler asked if the City does the free seminars now.

Mr. White responded that the City does the mandated ones for public works.

Council Member Butler asked if employees are referred to a local agency, such as the Alcohol & Substance Abuse Council after the initial phone calls.

Mr. White explained that they could be.

Council Member Butler asked why the City would want a superior and more expanded program when we are not using the existing program which costs less money.

Mr. White responded that the program is not that much more and ESI has lowered their cost by \$2.25 per employee. He remarked that getting the word out to employees about the program is very important.

Council Member Butler asked about payments for visits that extend past the 3 to 5 times.

Mr. White explained that insurance would then pay for them.

Mayor Graham remarked that he feels that ESI would be acting as an agent for the City. He commented that there are a host of social agencies in town that could provide help. He questioned how much an employer is expected to provide and commented that he would be hesitant to go to a counselor that was provided by the City.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that sometimes the management team uses this program as a tool to get an employee help, so it doesn't continue to be an issue that has a dramatic impact on the job or at home.

Mayor Graham questioned the confidentiality of the program.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that the City doesn't have the right to see how employees are using the health insurance program or this program. However, the City does have the right to send an employee to the program and to be informed if they follow through and attend.

Council Member Butler remarked if the City can help the employees, then it is worth it.

Mayor Graham remarked that the whole series of small items, such as this, will be getting scrutiny.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH TO TABLE THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUTLER AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

ADJOURNMENT

**AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR MEETING WAS DULY ADJOURNED AT 7:22 P.M.
BY MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH, SECONDED BY COUNCIL
MEMBER BURNS AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.**

Donna M. Dutton
City Clerk